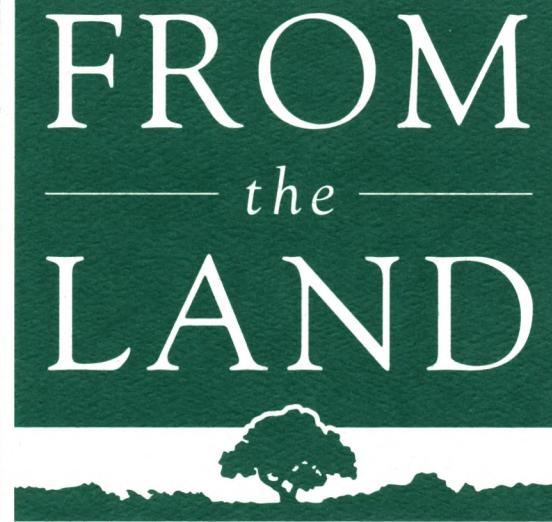


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HARTFORD
CONNECTICUT

Conservancy, Weston and People's Bank Team Up to Protect 60 Acres at Devil's Den

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY CONNECTICUT CHAPTER signed an agreement in October with the town of Weston and People's Bank of Bridgeport to make the biggest addition to the chapter's largest preserve since its creation in the 1960s.

According to the agreement, the Lucius Pond Ordway/Devil's Den Preserve in Weston gains 60 acres adjacent to its southeast corner, bringing the total acreage of the Den to 1,720 acres. The Conservancy and the town of Weston will evenly split the price of the tract, which People's Bank has agreed to sell for \$200,000. This is a cost of \$3,333 per acre, well below fair market value for developable land in Fairfield County. The town will own the development rights to the property, and the Conservancy will hold title to it, an arrangement that guarantees the protection of the land under all circumstances.

The parcel is part of an application by People's Bank to the Weston Planning and Zoning Commission that also includes a residential development of 17.5 acres. People's Bank plans to build seven houses on this other property, a proposal that dramatically reduces previous plans by other developers to build as many as 22 houses on the site.

"We wanted to work with the town and The Nature Conservancy to protect the intrinsic beauty they have created in this rural town," said Dorothea E. Brennan, first vice president of real estate services at People's Bank. The bank acquired the property through foreclosure.

The preserve is home to many neotropical migrant bird species — birds that nest in North America and migrate to the tropics of the western hemisphere. These species are greatly threatened by habitat loss at both ends of their migratory route, in Latin America and the Caribbean as well as in North America.

"Protecting this property will allow the town to retain the ecological balance that has been maintained in this area for the last 50 years," said Dr. Stephen Patton, director of Devil's Den. "It will also allow us to preserve the habitat of many local species, including wild turkey, mink, otter, grey fox, great horned owl and pileated woodpecker."

"This is a great day for the town of Weston and for all of Fairfield County," said Weston First Selectman George Guidera upon announcing the joint acquisition.

The Connecticut Chapter plans to raise \$160,000 for acquisition costs and stewardship endowment for the addition to Devil's Den.

The Lucius Pond Ordway/ Devil's Den Preserve was created by Weston resident Katharine Ordway in a series of donations totalling 1,300 acres from 1966 through 1968. The Den, which has 20 miles of trails, is one of the chapter's most frequently visited preserves, hosting between 10,000 and 20,000 people per year. Although Katharine Ordway named the preserve after her father, it also holds the popular name given to it by early settlers for a large "footprint" in a large rock that "could only have been made by the devil."

— JOHN MATTHIESSEN



PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION

Bonnie Corey



IT IS AXIOMATIC in conservation work that more can be accomplished with the participation of many. In this issue of *From the Land*, we announce a perfect example: a major accomplishment involving the Conservancy, a town, and a cooperative financial institution.

The Connecticut Chapter, the town of Weston, and People's Bank have joined forces to protect 60 acres adjacent to the 1,660-acre Devil's Den Preserve in Weston. Together with our two partners in this project — People's Bank, which made the property available at a fraction of its fair market value, and the town, which split the acquisition cost with the Conservancy — we are taking action to remove this property from the threat of development, and add 60 acres to the Devil's Den Preserve. It is significant that the Den, the chapter's largest preserve, is located in the state's most populous and densely developed corner, where it does the most good.

Under the leadership of First Selectman George Guidera, Weston has once again shown itself to be an exceptionally forward-thinking municipality, working with the Conservancy to leverage its funds toward a conservation project that will benefit residents for generations to come. I hope leaders of other communities will look to Weston as an example of what can be done to protect our environment through cooperation with the Conservancy and other conservation groups, such as local land trusts.

With this agreement, Weston has demonstrated an affordable way for a town to participate in the protection of its natural heritage. By working with the conservation professionals of The Nature Conservancy, the town has brought years of experience to bear in this cause. The Conservancy can provide experience in identifying critical conservation lands,

negotiating purchases, and caring for the land once it has been set aside, to ensure its native species thrive. Moreover, Weston will be able to secure the permanent protection of this land at a fraction of its value, by sharing the cost with the Conservancy.

But perhaps most importantly, we had another partner in this transaction: People's Bank of Bridgeport. By agreeing to sell the tract for so much less than its fair market value, People's Bank made an exceedingly generous donation to the future of Weston, and to conservation in Connecticut.

This land preservation victory will not only help maintain Weston's rural character — a high priority for residents — but will also help protect the town's natural heritage, a legacy upon which it is impossible to put a price. Weston has saved a place for the native species on this land, including the migrant songbirds without which our forests, yards and parks would be disagreeably quiet and colorless.

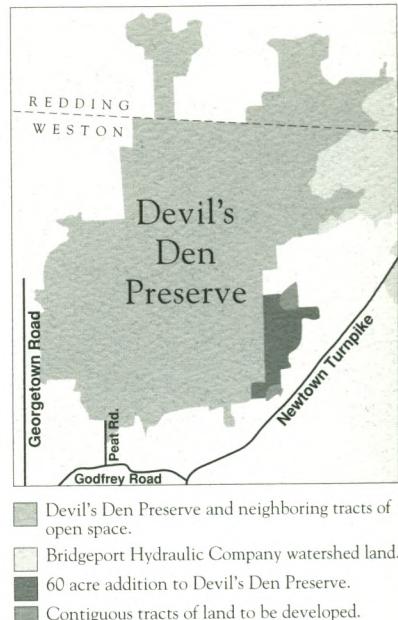
Protecting open space has been a priority for First Selectman George Guidera since he took office in 1987. Under his leadership, in 1990 the town purchased an 85-acre tract from Bridgeport Hydraulic Company that is adjacent to Devil's Den, which the Conservancy manages for the town. In 1988 Weston purchased the development rights to the Devil's Den land in town. By purchasing these rights, as it did in the case of this most recent acquisition, Weston assisted the Conservancy with another major land purchase at the Den while it guaranteed to its residents that this land would remain forever wild.

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I extend my thanks and congratulations to George Guidera, to the people of Weston, and to the management of People's Bank. You have shown that we are strongest when we strive together.

— LES COREY
Vice President and Executive Director

Devil's Den

CONTINUED FROM PAGE I



Kim Hanson

Above left to right: Devil's Den Preserve Director Dr. Stephen Patton, People's Bank President and Chief Executive Officer David E. A. Carson, Weston First Selectman George Guidera, and People's Bank First Vice President of Real Estate Services Dorothea E. Brennan admire a map illustrating the town and Conservancy's 60-acre joint land protection project.

On the Cover:
The worm-eating warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) is one of the many bird species found at Devil's Den. This migratory bird, which winters in Latin America and the Caribbean, is the subject of an intensive research project by Drs. Stephen Patton and Lise Hanners, directors of the Den.



Gifts Totalling 84 Acres Create New Norfolk Preserve

THE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER in October established a new preserve at Holleran Swamp in Norfolk, thanks to generous land gifts totalling 84 acres.

M. Perry Hunter Jr. of Norfolk, Frederick Riggs of Kensington and Colin F. Wilson of Norfolk combined to make this generous donation of land with a total fair market value of approximately \$37,000. Although the land is a gift, the Conservancy has set a fund-raising goal of \$15,000 to create a stewardship endowment for the preserve and to help cover acquisition costs, such as land surveys.

This important new preserve protects the habitat of 16 rare plant species. The area is also frequented by great blue herons, which are listed as a species of special concern in the state.

The Holleran Swamp Preserve consists of open cattail swamp as well as low-lying upland forest with large white pines and an adjacent wooded swamp. The preserve is east of Elmore Road and south of Wheeler Road, with some frontage on both. It is adjacent to Wood Creek Pond.

"It's impossible to put a value on this kind of donation," said Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. "Holleran Swamp has been a priority for the Connecticut Chapter for more than a decade. On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I extend my gratitude to the three donors whose generosity and foresight made this new preserve possible. The area will be managed for conservation and research."

— JOHN MATTHIESSEN

For Christmas, a Piece of "The Great Swamp"

IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER, Robert Christopher Blake, R. Christopher Blake of Litchfield has donated 10 acres on Robbins Swamp in Canaan to the Connecticut Chapter. He signed the deed on Christmas Eve, honoring the 12th anniversary of Robert C. Blake's death.

This is a significant addition to the Conservancy's existing holdings at Robbins Swamp, which exceed 135 acres. The parcel is located between state land on the north, a railroad on the west, and more Conservancy property on the south. The Conservancy first created a preserve at Robbins Swamp in 1987, thanks to a gift of 100 acres from Mrs. Francis R. Stanton of Chicago. Mrs. Stanton said she had always called the area "The Great Swamp."

Robbins Swamp is the largest and one of the most important inland wetlands in the state, and has a great diversity of habitats and species. It is a calcareous wetland, meaning it has a limestone base, which makes the soil extremely basic and results in a high occurrence of rare plant species. Among them are northern white cedar and bur oak.

"Mr. Blake's generous land donation is a truly moving tribute to his father," said Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. "It demonstrates that our regard for nature and the land is truly passed from one generation to the next. On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I extend my thanks to Mr. Blake."

— CAROLIE EVANS



“The Great Swamp.”

The Nature Conservancy At Work

	Worldwide	Connecticut
Total Transactions:	15,144	625
Total Acres Protected:	7,288,000	19,280
Total Acres Registered:	492,000	6,148
Total Acres Saved	7,780,000	25,428
Members	719,748	16,455
Corporate Associates	1,154	21

Chapter Trustee Stewart Greenfield Pledges \$500,000 to Help Save Rain Forests



Dorothy Milen

▲ Dr. David Smith (left), executive director of the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust, distributes materials after a slide show presentation at Hartford's West Indian Social Club, arranged by the Chapter. Dr. Smith visited Connecticut last October and spoke about Jamaica's extraordinary natural resources, the threats facing them, and the efforts of his organization to address those threats.

STEWART GREENFIELD, who spent his professional life serving as a catalyst in venture capitalism, has taken his place among those who lead the way in our struggle to save the world's rain forests. His recent \$500,000 commitment and his dedicated work as a member of the Connecticut Chapter's board of trustees will help secure future survival of this vital resource.

Stu's first Conservancy rain forest project in 1989 involved participation in the acquisition of the Flor de Oro ranch that is now the base for protecting the 2.4 million acre Noel Kaempf National Park in Bolivia, a preserve that has almost as many bird species as the entire United States. He also assisted the Moises Bertoni Foundation, the Conservancy's Paraguayan conservation partner, to acquire the Mbaracayu Forest and protect the traditional life style of the indigenous Ache (pronounced AH-chay) Indians.

During his years at St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., Greenfield's fascination with the work of 19th century naturalist Charles Darwin led to an enduring interest in tropical rain forests. "I find the unique evolutionary processes present in the biological diversity of rain forests remarkable," he explained. "The high degree of competition among various rain forest plants and animals forces every species to produce alkaloids and enzymes that are key to the successful treatment and cure of many dis-

eases afflicting mankind." Scores of drugs, including one particularly effective in treating childhood leukemia, are derived from rain forest plants and animals, Greenfield added.



▲ Stewart Greenfield in Jamaica, 1993.

A longtime member of The Nature Conservancy, Greenfield believes the Conservancy's cooperative approach to conservation is the only way to achieve sustainable development. "The most critical issue in our fight to save the environment is moral suasion," Greenfield said. By working in support of human populations that impact biodiversity in critical areas, the Conservancy has been extremely effective in radically changing public awareness and in heightening concern for protection of wilderness areas, he said.

"The Conservancy has worked successfully in forming partnerships and coalitions with other environmental groups and governments to achieve its goal of preserving the world's biodiversity," Greenfield added. "Its sharing of scientific data and land management expertise hold the promise of our successful protection of these critical areas."

Greenfield likes being a catalyst for change, which is why he has chosen to direct his energy and resources toward the preservation of rain forests in third world countries. "Right now the low cost of tropical rain forest property makes it possible for an individual to have a significant impact," Greenfield said. "In some countries rain forest can be protected for \$1,000 to \$10,000 a square mile. Rapid economic development in Latin America will drive costs up greatly in the next five years."

Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. expressed the excitement Greenfield's commitment has caused: "Stu has shown exemplary trustee leadership in making this commitment. His gift will have a huge impact on our efforts to preserve biologically rich rain forests. Our Jamaican and Latin American friends and all of us associated with the Connecticut Chapter are extremely grateful." 

Yankee Energy and Stockholders Support LAST GREAT PLACES

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY CONNECTICUT CHAPTER on December 6 received a check for \$26,342 from Yankee Energy System, Inc. of Meriden through the company's Odd Lot Shareholder Program.

Last fall, Yankee Energy also offered its shareholders owning fewer than 100 shares a convenient way to sell them without paying brokerage commissions. This program also offered odd-lot shareholders the option of donating their shares to one of seven charities, including The Nature Conservancy. Yankee Energy pledged to match up to \$50,000 of shareholders' donations. Participants donated a total of 2,993 shares, 598 designated to The Nature Conservancy for a total of \$16,350, and Yankee Energy provided \$9,992 in matching funds.

"I believe the success of the charity feature of our program is due to its win-win formula," said Yankee Energy's President and Chief Executive Officer Philip T. Ashton. "It served to reduce our costs of servicing small shareholder accounts while providing our shareholders a way to support

their selected charity and generate matching funds by Yankee Energy. Of course, none of this could have been possible without the generosity of our shareholders!"

Yankee Energy made the donation to the Conservancy's Last Great Places initiative, an international effort to protect large threatened ecological systems. The Conservancy will commit the funds to the Connecticut Chapter's Tidelands of the Connecticut River program, which was designated one of the Last Great Places in March 1993.

"We will use this generous donation for our Tidelands of the Connecticut River program, a comprehensive effort to preserve the unique ecological resources of the lower Connecticut River," said Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. "I would like to thank and congratulate Yankee Energy, and particularly Phil Ashton, on the tremendous foresight and leadership they have shown in supporting this program." 



Courtesy Yankee Gas

▲ Nature Conservancy President John C. Sawhill, second from left, presents Yankee Energy Chief Executive Officer Philip T. Ashton with an aerial photograph of the Tidelands of the Connecticut River region by chapter volunteer Robert Perron. Director Leslie N. Corey Jr. is at far right, and Chapter Chairman Anthony P. Grassi is at far left.

Conservancy Signs Agreement with Bruce Babbitt's Biological Survey

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY signed a memorandum of understanding with Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt in December that provides a framework for cooperative activities with the National Biological Survey, a bureau Babbitt created last November at the Department of the Interior.

Under the agreement, a working group will be formed to explore establishing a National Heritage Data Center in the National Biological Survey; ways for the Survey to work with natural heritage programs across the country; and ways to exchange resources between the Survey and The Nature Conservancy.

Natural heritage programs were established by the environmental agencies of every state, with assistance from The

Nature Conservancy, to inventory and monitor the status of species and ecological communities, the locations where they are found, and land use affecting them. Connecticut's natural heritage program, the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Data Base, is part of the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey and Natural Resources Center, which has operated since 1903.

The National Biological Survey was established to gather, analyze, and disseminate the biological information necessary for the sound stewardship of the nation's natural resources, and to foster understanding of biological systems and benefits they provide to society. 

New Tax Law Benefits Wildlife

On Tax Day, Don't Forget Your Other Dependents

If you're getting a refund this year on your state income taxes, you can now indicate on your tax form that you wish to donate part of all of that refund to the Endangered Species, Natural Area Preserves and Nonharvested Wildlife programs at the state Department of Environmental Protection.

Don't Forget!!!

Share your state income tax with some of Connecticut's most threatened plants and animals and Save Something on Your Taxes!

New Chapter Acorns

We are pleased to announce that 243 Connecticut Chapter members joined as Acorns in 1993! Acorn members directly support the Conservancy through a minimum annual contribution of \$100 in support of the Connecticut Chapter's operations — all the day-to-day activities that make it possible for us to save land.

Our thanks to all who joined as Acorns in 1993 and to those generous Acorns who renewed or upgraded their support.

Current Corporate Associates

Businesses that donate \$1,000 or more to the Connecticut Chapter annually.

Adamanthos Shipping Agency, Inc.
Aetna
Amax Foundation
Aquarion Company
Champion International Corporation
Connecticut Water Company, Inc.
Dexter Corporation
Garden Homes Management
General Reinsurance Corporation
GTE Foundation
Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Co.
Iroquois Gas Transmission System
MBI, Inc.
Milfoam Corporation
Northeast Utilities
Olin Corporation Charitable Trust
Pfizer Inc.
Pitney Bowes
The Stanley Works
The Travelers Insurance Company
United Technologies Corporation
Xerox Foundation

Mr. Arnold Alderman	Mr. Thomas Gootz	Dr. Anne S. Mc Nulty	Dr. Ilsa Schwartz
Mr. Mark Appel	Ms. Alice Gordon	Mr. Edward J. McAree	Mrs. Jean R. Scialabba
Mr. Terrell Barch	Mr. Michael Griffin	Ms. Karen M. McCusland	Ms. Fifi Scoufopoulos
Mr. Jon Bauer	Mr. and Mrs. Peter B. Griffin	Mrs. Phyllis McCormick	Mr. Anthony Shaw
Ms. Janet Beatty	Mr. John C. Griggs II	M. McDonnell	Mr. Stuart Small
Mr. Arthur C. Becker	Mr. Hamilton Hadden III	M. La Raine McGrath	Ms. Eleanor H. Smith
Mrs. Elizabeth W. Bell	Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hadley	Ms. Elaine McMahon	Mr. Peter B. Smith
Ms. Luanne Benshimal	Mrs. Elvira D. Hart	Mr. David McSpadden	Mr. Philip C. Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Edward S. Benson	Mr. James W. Hart	Mr. Charles A. McLaughlin	Mrs. Glover A. Snow
Dr. Leo H. Berman	Mr. Frank Hawley	Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Mead	Mrs. Wesley Sorenson-Pearson
Ms. Lucy Bernstein	Marjorie Hayes and Keith Wilson	Mr. and Mrs. L. Thomas Melly	Mrs. Stephen H. Stackpole
Carol Berto	Mr. and Mrs. William Henderson	Ms. Casey Geddes Miller	Mrs. Virginia Stasio
Mr. Daniel Blackburn	Ms. Sue Hessel	Mr. Eugene F. Miller	William and Elaine Steinbach
Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Botel Jr.	Mr. Anthony E. Hoffman	Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence B. Morris Jr.	Allison and Chas Stielau
Ms. Carol Bredbury	Ms. Esther Hoffman	Ms. Patricia C. Morris	Mr. Russell Stoddard
Mr. Robert P. Brett	Mr. David Holahan	Mr. Gardner Moulton	Mr. Fran C. Tao
Mrs. Charles C. Buckland	Mr. and Mrs. Milton Hollister	Mr. Stephen F. Mumford	Ms. Virginia S. Tarika
Ms. Anne Budding	Mrs. Priscilla D. Holmes	Dr. and Mrs. James C. Niederman	Peter and Susan Tattersall
Mr. R. Burgund	Mr. and Mrs. L.A. Hopkins Jr.	Miss Victoria Nott	Ms. Margaret B. Taylor
Mr. Bruce R. Burkhardt	Mr. and Mrs. H.E. Hosley Jr.	Ms. Paula Nowakowski	Ms. Mary Louise Tenney
Mrs. Frederica B. Burrall	Ms. Donna Hutchinson	Mrs. Brian O'Brien	Dr. A. J. Toth
Dr. Jeffrey Callahan	Ms. Judith Hyde	Paul and Judith Ode	Mr. Conrad Totman
Mr. David L. Campbell	Mrs. Katherine A. Janowitz	Mr. Nicholas D. Ohly	Ms. Dorothy Trefts
Ms. Elizabeth Carabillo	Ms. Laura R. Jarett	Ms. Shirley L. Okun	Mr. Steve D. Trinkaus
Mr. and Mrs. John J. Carroll	Mr. Frank Jarabeck	Old Saybrook Garden Club	Harold and Susan Trischman
Mr. Reed Cass	Mrs. Donald W. Johnson	Jean Oristano	Mr. and Mrs. Donald S. Turtle Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. David E. Catterton	Mr. and Mrs. Edward R. Jones	Mr. John D. Palmer	Mr. and Mrs. William R. Van Loan Jr.
Ms. Paula C. Chabot	Mr. Phillip H. Jones	Roy and Jane Paulson	Ms. Barbara G. Vigars
Mr. Frederick T. Cliffe Jr.	Mr. Jay Kaplan	Ms. Janice E. Pellegrino	Mr. Albert Wallace
Mr. Richard Cliggott	Mr. and Mrs. Maurice J. Karl	Ms. Nancy Perlis	Mr. and Mrs. John M. Warren
David and Ann Close	Mrs. David Kearns	Dr. Donald Perras	Mrs. Cynthia S. Warshaw
Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Connolly	Mr. Stewart C. Keene	Mr. and Mrs. A. Gordon Peterkin	Mr. Franklin B. Watters
Ms. Gertrude W. Corwin	Mr. Chester B. Kerr	Mr. Jeffrey Phelon	Ms. Helena A. Weatherill
Mr. and Mrs. John Charles Cox	Susan and Robert Kinney	Ms. Janet U. Phyfe	Mr. and Mrs. Josiah F. Wedgewood
Mrs. Charlotte Cross	Mr. Dennis Knowlton	Mr. and Mrs. Alexander B. Platt	Mr. Stephen V. Weidemann
Ms. Judy L. Cunningham	Mrs. Miriam Kolodney	Dr. and Mrs. John S. Poczaibut	Ms. Pamela Weisberg
Ms. Laura H. Cunningham	Mr. Roger Koontz	Mrs. Jennifer A. Poling	Ms. Mary Moers Wenig
Nigel Daw	Mr. David Kramer	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Popowics Jr.	Mr. Benjamin Davis Williams
Ms. Anne-Marie de Barolet	Mrs. Mary Lang	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Prager	Mr. Robert B. Wilson
Countess de Lesseps	Mrs. R.G. Lawrence	Ms. Monica Prihoda	Mr. Philip H. Wootton Jr.
Mrs. Joan de Regt	Carl and Natalie Leaman	Mr. and Mrs. Gene Printz-Kopelson	Mr. and Mrs. John E. Wright Jr.
Mrs. Anthony J. De Luca	Mr. Andrew Leeds	Ms. Brie Quinby	
Mr. Donald Desmond	Mr. Frank Leigner	Ms. Janet Rader	
Ms. Katherine Desousa	Ms. Linda Lennox	Mr. David R. Rainey	
Mrs. Philip S. Dey	Mr. Harry F. Leonard and Dr. Ellen Leonard	Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ramseur Jr.	
Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Dickinson	Mr. George Lethbridge	Ms. Sylvia Redmond	
Ms. Kristina Diels	Mr. Robert C. Levine	Mr. John C. Reese	
Ms. Marie Doebler	Mr. and Mrs. James A. Levitan	Ms. Elizabeth A. Regier	
Cheryl and Daniel Dunson	Mr. and Mrs. Russell Lewis	Ms. Kathleen W. Renz	
Eve Eden and M.J. Karter	Mr. Peter V. Liberante	Mr. David C. Reynolds	
Ms. Jo Ann Eder	Mr. and Mrs. John A. Light III	Mr. Charles W. Riegle	
Mr. Brad Elliot	Ms. Phyllis Linden	Mr. Frederick W. Riggs	
Dr. and Mrs. Matthew G. Ely III	Mr. John E. Long	Mr. Bruce Roberts	
Mr. Richard S. Fitol	Marc and Kathy Lorber	Mrs. Rona Roberts	
Mr. Robert Fitzgerald	Mr. William Lord	Mr. Rodney Robertson	
Ms. Juana Maria G. Flagg	Mrs. Robert M. Love	Mr. David W. Robinson	
Ms. Marie Forjan	Mr. Christopher H. Lunding	G.F. Robinson	
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Forrester	Mr. Gary Lupienski	Robinson Leech Associates	
Ms. Diane Fuller	Mrs. Rob Roy MacGregor	Mr. Charles E. Rogers	
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gaetjen	Iain M. MacKay	Mrs. Paul D. Rosahn	
Mr. James Gage	Mr. F. Mancheski	Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Royce	
Mr. Leandro Galban III	Mr. Kenneth Mancinelli	Dr. and Mrs. Ronald T. Rozett	
Mrs. Joan P. Gallher	Ms. Joan M. Manning	A. B. Salafia	
Ms. Katherine D. Garcia	Mr. Larry Marks	Mr. William D. Sample	
Garden Club of Old Greenwich	Ms. Carola Marte	Dr. R. Kent Sargent	
Mrs. Judith Gates	Mr. Jerry L. Mashaw	Ms. Elizabeth Anne Scheffler	
Robert and Linda Gaza	R.L. Massey	Ms. Jill Schneider	
Mr. John L. Geils	Mr. John Matuszeski	Joel and Deborah Schoenfeld	
Mr. Robert G. Gilligan	Mr. E.D. McDonald		
Mr. Stanley Goldberg			

We have made every effort to make the preceding list of new Acorns accurate but if there are errors or omissions we'd like to hear from you.

A New Way of Giving: THE CHARTER OAK COUNCIL

Beginning this fall, there will be a new way you can help The Nature Conservancy's most important work in Connecticut, called THE CHARTER OAK COUNCIL.

But what's our most important work? With so many vital conservation projects across the state, how can we single out just one?

The answer, of course, is we can't. Our most important work is simply the day-to-day activities that build toward our ultimate goal of saving rare species for future generations.

A CHARTER OAK membership funds all aspects of the Conservancy's work, from land protection to scientific study to preserve management. Just as importantly, it funds the other work we do: preparing, executing, and following up those three main activities. Simply put, these funds always go where our need is greatest.

Every one of the accomplishments you see in *From the Land* or in your local newspaper — protecting new land, working on a preserve — represents months, sometimes years, of careful preparation, and the need for these funds is *always great*.

Without that preparation, we could not succeed. And without your support, we would not be able to prepare.

Connecticut's long and colorful history dates back to 1662, and state residents pride themselves on being fiercely independent. The oak tree, Connecticut's Charter Oak, has come to represent our strength and determination to maintain our unique heritage.

Like the Charter Oak, the Conservancy's

oak leaf has become a symbol of our determination to pursue a clearly focused conservation mission, often in the face of overwhelming odds. And, it represents our success, which has been achieved through the support of our members and friends.

Through the Acorn program (Acorn members contribute \$100 or more annually to operations) we offer members a variety of benefits and privileges. But we wanted to do something more, something to recognize our members' generous support — many Acorns already give \$1,000 or more every year — as well as their confidence in our ability to get the job done.

That's why we are creating our new CHARTER OAK COUNCIL, which will begin next summer. As part of the chapter's Acorn program, the CHARTER OAK COUNCIL will enhance our ability to recognize the many levels of support by our members.

Benefits of membership in the CHARTER OAK COUNCIL will include updates by Nature Conservancy President John C. Sawhill on national and international Conservancy projects; updates from Chapter Director Leslie N. Corey on Connecticut's Tidelands of the Connecticut River program; personal invitations to national and local Conservancy trips and events; and gift memberships, to name a few. More details on the CHARTER OAK COUNCIL will appear in the next issue of *From the Land*.

If you're already an Acorn member, we will be pleased to include you in this new expanding program. If you're not an Acorn, we hope you'll consider becoming one soon!



— PAT ANDERSON

New Staff



Leslie LeMay, the chapter's new executive assistant, joined us in November from Carangelo Commercial

Interiors of Old Saybrook where she coordinated renovation projects for hospitals and schools. Her experience also includes work on the last state gubernatorial campaign, at the YWCA, and at the Volunteer Action Center in New Haven. Leslie is busy making contact with trustees, friends and donors, learning as much as she can about Conservancy activities worldwide, and facilitating the work of our executive director. She is very much looking forward to helping with outdoor donor events and work parties. Leslie lives in Deep River with her son, Evan, and their very large cat, Leo.



Marlee Miksovsky began in January as the chapter's new administrative assistant to Development Director Colleen

MacNeil Freeman. She has lived in Connecticut for three years, and previously worked as administrative assistant for clinical services at Uncas on Thames Hospital in Norwich. Marlee is an avid gardener and cook, and is owned by three cats.



Leslie MacLise-Kane is the new program coordinator for the Land Conservation Coalition of Connecticut, and

will work out of the Connecticut Chapter office. Kane, a landscape architect from Guilford, is a member of the board of directors of the Guilford Land Trust, and is tree warden for the town of Guilford.





Eagle Eyes

Volunteers Needed!

The Connecticut Chapter is in need of volunteers to help us prepare and mail our spring fund raising appeal. We need letter stuffers, labelers, and stampers for the weeks of April 11 and May 9. This is a critical task that ultimately provides us with the essential funds we need to keep doing our conservation work here in Connecticut. Volunteers will be warmly welcomed, greatly appreciated, and plied with muffins and coffee. Please call Pat Anderson at 344-0716 if you are interested!

Below top: In the mowed section of the site, golden alexander leaves are stunted; notice quarter showing relative size.

Bottom: In the unmowed section, the plant has reached normal leaf size. No flowering occurred in the first year without mowing.



SINCE ITS COMPLETION IN THE 1950S, Shepaug Dam in Southbury has become an important winter feeding location for the bald eagle.

The constant flow of water in the intricate dam system keeps the Housatonic River just below the dam from freezing, so the majestic birds can fish there all winter long. To help educate the public about the bald eagle, our endangered national symbol, Northeast Utilities began the Shepaug Dam Eagle Viewing Program at the site in 1984.

With the help of The Nature Conservancy and the state Department of Environmental Protection, NU provides an opportunity for people to see bald eagles in their natural habitat without disturbing them. Because eagles are very sensitive and may leave a site if they either hear or see humans, the visitors are required to watch quietly from a building approximately 1,000 feet from the eagles, and avoid making any abrupt, loud noises.

In the partnership between the Conservancy, NU and the DEP, each group supplies an essential component of the program: NU owns the viewing site,

and provides the sites for the preparatory training session; the DEP provides biological information on the eagles for the volunteers; and the Conservancy provides most of the volunteers. In addition to soliciting volunteers for the program, the Conservancy's volunteer coordinator also organizes their schedule and acts as liaison between NU and the volunteers.

The number of volunteers per year is usually at least 50, with the past two years producing 65 and 66 volunteers, respectively. Most of these volunteers are very active at the Conservancy year round, and contribute their time to other projects such as the least tern and piping plover program and work parties across the state. In addition, these volunteers clearly enjoy the experience of working with the eagles; fully one-half of all Eagle Viewing volunteers this year are veterans, with some having participated since the program's inception.

The Eagle Viewing site is open this year through March 16, on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays by reservation only. For reservations, please call 1-800-368-8954.

—JEAN COX

Endangered Plant Makes a Comeback

WHEN THE MANAGEMENT OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY conscientiously mowed its land in southeastern Connecticut, it had no idea it was preventing flowering of a species that is endangered in the state. Their property is one of three known Connecticut sites for heart-leaved golden alexanders (*Zizia aptera*), a member of the parsley family.

This species was first identified on Harvard's land in 1980 by biologist Les Mehrhoff of the state Department of Environmental Protection's Natural Diversity Data Base. He subsequently noted that annual mowing of the site in mid-June eliminated all the flowers and likely reduced reproductive capacity of the

species. By 1985, there were 100 to 200 golden alexanders at the site and only one flowering plant.

Through the Connecticut Natural Heritage Registry Program, Nature Conservancy staff contacted Harvard to alert its staff to the presence of the plant and the threat it faces in the state. Harvard quickly agreed to modify the mowing regime at the site.

In the summer of 1989, only a portion of the golden alexander population was mowed. The results (see photos) were striking, although none of the plants flowered that first summer. Based on these photographs, Harvard agreed to a moratorium on all mowing during the plant's growing season. By 1990, the golden alexanders had

Photos: Beth Lapan



Preserve Transfers a Win-Win Deal

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1960, The Nature Conservancy Connecticut Chapter has created 130 preserves. The chapter also has legal interests such as conservation easements in other properties, for a total of nearly 20,000 acres of protected land. The care and maintenance of all of these sites can be a daunting task; luckily, there are a number of like-minded conservation organizations across the state the chapter has worked with since our earliest days to make that possible.

The Connecticut Chapter has traditionally made transfers of preserve lands to appropriate and willing conservation partners, including land trusts and state and federal agencies. Preserves are considered for transfer if they do not contain significant habitat of plants or animals that are rare, endangered, or of special concern in Connecticut, or beyond. In this way, the Conservancy allows itself to concentrate on protecting and caring for areas that do contain these vital habitats.

The Greenwich Land Trust is a good example of an organization the chapter works with in this process. Founded in 1971, the Greenwich Land Trust is an active local organization with a solid membership base. The chapter has transferred

four preserves to this land trust, with additional projects in the works. Transfers, done only with the approval of the original land donor, place the day-to-day care of an area in local hands, so the preserve often receives more frequent attention than would otherwise be possible.

As part of any transfer, the Conservancy places restrictions in the deed and retains a legal interest in the land. This assures the protection of the land in perpetuity, and creates partnerships benefitting both parties. Increased land holdings can give a land trust more visibility, resulting in additional membership and support. It also allows the Conservancy to share its management expertise, while continuing its work to protect Connecticut's most important natural areas, knowing that each area will receive the stewardship it needs.

As the task of caring for protected lands is not only continuous but growing, we are thankful for the cooperation of our state's land trusts and government agencies. With the partnerships we have formed, all of our organizations can be more effective than if we were working on our own.

— DAVID GUMBART

resumed flowering; for the last three years, between 90 and 100 plants have flowered each year with this new management schedule, which includes a fall mowing.

This past summer, volunteer Margaret Philbrick, director of the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center in Mystic, assumed responsibility for counting *Zizia* plants and flowers to be sure everything is going well. With continued cooperation from Harvard, one of Connecticut's important botanical sites has made a comeback.

— BETH LAPIN



Susan Wolf, courtesy of the Bethel Home News

▲ The Connecticut Chapter transferred the 59-acre Wolfsits Preserve to the Bethel Land Trust on December 2. Present at the transfer were, from left, Bethel Land Trust Vice President John O'Neill; Land Trust President Daniel DeVlieg; Chapter Preserve Steward David Gumbart; Bethel First Selectman Clifford Hurgin; and John Miller, Bethel Land Trust treasurer and a long-time chapter volunteer.

“To make a gift of any kind to The Nature Conservancy is an act of generosity. To make a long-term gift — one derived from the work of a lifetime — is to make a commitment beyond measure.”

Announcing the Legacy Club

The Nature Conservancy proudly announces the Legacy Club to honor those who make extraordinary long-term gifts by remembering the Conservancy in their wills or estate plans.

Please allow us to recognize your commitment. If the Conservancy is in your estate plans, or if you would like information on how to make a planned gift, please contact our field office.



11th Annual Convocation of Land Trusts

Publication of "Standards & Practices Guidebook" Announced



Lesley Olsen

▲ Chapter Preserve Steward David Gumbart (center), one of the speakers at the 1993 Land Trust Service Bureau Convocation, discusses preserve management with a land trust official.

Migratory Bird Day

In May, the Sunny Valley Preserve will observe International Migratory Bird Day with a preserve-wide migratory bird survey conducted by experienced birders from the Western Connecticut Bird Club and the Connecticut Ornithological Association. The preserve's diverse habitat and topography on its 1,850 acres straddling the Housatonic Valley offers a unique opportunity to initiate a long-term data base on bird migration to and from Connecticut. In addition, the event will double as a fund-raising "birdathon" for the preserve, based on pledges received for each species tallied. All chapter members are invited to attend these events and pledges for the May birdathon are welcome. Please call the preserve office at 355-3716 for more information.

— CHRIS WOOD

► At right: Mark Carabetta receives his White Oak Award at the chapter's 1993 annual meeting in Norwalk from Chapter Chairman Anthony P. Grassi, left, and Director Leslie N. Corey Jr.

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY OF Connecticut's conservationists were on hand November 13, 1993 at the University of Hartford for the announcement of the Land Trust Alliance's new publication, "The Standards & Practices Guidebook."

Kathy Barton, associate director of the Land Trust Alliance, a national land trust service and information organization, highlighted the nation's first comprehensive guide to running a land conservation organization.

To further familiarize participants with the new publication and how to put it to use, the convocation divided into groups to discuss applying these practical guidelines to various program areas, including responsible stewardship; land transactions; fund raising and the role of a land trust's board.

Participants shared their concerns and successes with their colleagues at a buffet lunch during which the annual Land Trust Service Bureau Green-Ups® Awards were conferred on the Redding Land Trust, New

Haven Land Trust, Guilford Land Conservation Trust, and the Kent Land Trust for their outstanding efforts this year.

Participants gleaned vital management skills from afternoon sessions covering a variety of issues including hazardous waste risk assessment, invasive species identification and control, the Connecticut Forest Stewardship Program, and the wetland permitting process.

The day was full of practical, functional ideas on how to go about the business of preserving open space and run a non-profit organization. The new publication, "The Standards & Practices Guidebook," was heralded by those attending as "a must have," "an essential tool," "the best source of comprehensive information available for land conservationists," with many saying "I'm ordering my copy today!"

For a copy of "The Standards & Practices Guidebook," write the Land Trust Alliance at 1319 F Street NW, Suite 501, Washington, D.C. 20004-1106, or call (202) 638-4725.

— LESLEY OLSEN

V O L U N T E E R P R O F I L E

MARK CARABETTA of New Britain is one of the chapter's most active and energetic volunteers, devoting approximately 40 hours last year to work parties, working as a monitor of the Canfield Island Marsh in East Norwalk, and as a volunteer at the Shepaug Dam Bald Eagle Viewing Program site in Southbury.

Mark is currently a natural resources student at the University of Connecticut, and plans to work in environmental education. He said he decided to volunteer at The Nature Conservancy because the program allows people to get

involved with conservation by donating time as well as money.

Currently, Mark is serving his second year as a volunteer guide at Shepaug Dam. He also participated in the July work party for Chapman Pond. In addition to volunteering at several other conservation organizations, Mark enjoys hiking, canoeing and travelling. He received one of the chapter's White Oak Awards at last October's annual

meeting for his work on stewardship projects, including preserve and trail maintenance and removal of invasive plants.

— JEAN COX



Vincent

C A L E N D A R

Please call Preserve Steward David Gumbart at 344-0716 for more information on the work parties in the spring.

Please register for all activities at Devil's Den and Katharine Ordway Preserve by calling 226-4991.

For information on Sunny Valley activities please call the Sunny Valley Preserve office at 355-3716.

Sunday, March 13
8:30 a.m.

Bird Walk at Sunny Valley Preserve
Come get a look at the wide variety of birds that frequent this preserve.
Leader: Angela Dimmitt.

Sunday, March 13
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Historical Tour of Devil's Den
Learn the history of the Den and this part of Connecticut through the eyes of leader Caroline Waddams.

Monday, March 14
1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Adult Walk at the Katharine Ordway Preserve
Preview the spring season with leaders Helene Weatherill and Dorothy Abrams.

Saturday, March 19
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Saugatuck Valley Trails Day Hike
Meet at the Devil's Den Preserve
Celebrate spring along varied trails on this moderately strenuous guided hike. Bring along a lunch.

Sunday, March 20
Family Nature Walk at Devil's Den
Enjoy the first official day of spring with leader Irene Kitzman.

Saturday, March 26
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Work day at Devil's Den
Help us get the trails ready for spring!

Saturday, April 2
Piping Plover Work Party
Griswold Point, Old Lyme

Saturday, April 30 & Sunday, May 1
Falkner Island Work Party, Guilford
Help prepare the island for nesting roseate terns.

Late April
Burnham Brook Work Party
Please call the Connecticut Chapter for more information.

Friday, May 13
Bauer Woods Work Party, Salisbury
Please come help us remove invasive plants from this lovely preserve.

Saturday, May 14
10 a.m. to noon
Natural History Walk
"Glaciers at Rock Spring", Scotland
Limited to 20 people.
An exploration of the remains of glaciation at this preserve. We'll explore fascinating geological features such as a kettle pond, esker and kame deposits. Call Jean Cox at the Connecticut Chapter for reservations.

Open Farm Day a Success

The Sunny Valley Preserve's first Open Farm Day, held in October, was a great success, with more than 1,000 people visiting the preserve's dairy farm, pumpkin patches, and walking trails in New Milford. Visitors enjoyed tours of the operating dairy barn, a display of farm equipment, pumpkin picking, trail walks, and cider. Resident farmers Bill and Bonnie Weed, who lease the dairy farm from the Conservancy, were on hand to discuss cows and farming with guests, and several terrific volunteers helped keep everything running smoothly.

Celebrate Trails Day at Sunny Valley!

More is in store at Sunny Valley this year. In addition to plans for repeating Open Farm Day next October, the preserve staff and Advisory Committee are working on a major spring event focusing on the preserve's extensive trail system in Bridgewater. Sunny Valley Trails Day, scheduled to coincide with Connecticut Trails Day on June 5, will include hikes, opportunities for picnicking, and a ceremony rededicating the trails in honor of George Pratt, whose donation to the Conservancy created the preserve. Several hikes are planned, ranging from a short nature walk around the Cemetery Pond, to wildflower and bird walks guided by expert naturalists, to a vigorous trail hike over the several miles of trails along Lake Lillinonah.

— CHRIS WOOD



Please Join Us!

Yes, I'd like to become The Nature Conservancy's newest member in Connecticut.

\$100 (Acorn)* \$50 \$25

I'm already a member, but would like to join the ranks of Connecticut Acorns.*

Double your gift — send in your corporate matching gift form!

* Acorns are Conservancy members who contribute at least \$100 annually to chapter operations. Connecticut Acorns are exempt from national membership dues notices, are invited on Acorn trips, and receive early notices for special events.

Please make checks payable to The Nature Conservancy and mail to 55 High Street, Middletown, CT 06457-3788. Thank you!



The Nature Conservancy

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Great Meadows Funding Approved

IN NOVEMBER, after a grueling eight-month process, the U.S. Congress approved the 1994 Interior Department budget, including a \$1.6 million appropriation to add portions of the Great Meadows Salt Marsh in Stratford to the Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge.

The Conservancy had requested \$4 million to cover the first and part of the second of four options it had helped to negotiate between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Stratford Development Company, owners of the property. The \$1.6 million allocation will enable the Fish and Wildlife Service to execute the first option, which covers 369 acres of salt and freshwater wetlands. The Conservancy will request additional funds next year for the subsequent options.

The Great Meadows Marsh, which was highlighted in the Summer 1993 issue of *From the Land*, contains Connecticut's largest unditched high salt marsh, and an exceptional habitat for shore birds, including the federally threatened piping plover.

The Stratford appropriation was obtained in what proved to be a disappointing budget for conservationists. The Clinton administration requested a

total of \$213 million for land acquisition from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, the federal fund that generates about \$900 million annually from off-shore oil leases, and is supposed to be spent only on open space purchases. This request was down from the \$283 million that was passed for the 1993 budget. Congress eventually authorized \$254 million for the 1994 fiscal year.

The House of Representatives approved \$3 million for the Stratford project thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Rep. Rosa DeLauro and the rest of Connecticut's delegation. The Senate allocated \$1.6 million for the project, which was the amount finally authorized by the full Congress. 

— DAVID SUTHERLAND



The late U.S. Congressman Stewart B. McKinney, after whom the McKinney Wildlife Refuge was named.

From The Land

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